

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

## 1. A network system comprising:

a plurality of independent system networks which are designed on different protocols;

a plurality of independent system network servers, each server controlling one of the independent system networks;

a backbone system network which interconnects the servers;

wherein each of the servers comprises:

a communication unit which communicates with other servers via the backbone system network; and

a format converter which converts between a first information format and a second information format, the first format being used for managing appliances included in an independent system network which the server is controlling and the second format being used for exchanging information with other servers; and

wherein the first format is defined for a specific appliance existent within said independent system network and the second format is defined for an unspecified appliance existent within said independent system network.

2. The system of claim 1 wherein the second format is defined in such a manner that the format becomes universal within the said independent system network and wherein the format converter conducts conversion referring to a table indicating correspondence between the second formats, each format having universality within a respective independent network.

3. The system of claim 1 further comprising a command generator which converts to a command dedicated to the appliance a description of control of the appliance written in the first format converted from the second format and which sends the command to the appliance.

4. The system of claim 2 further comprising a command generator which converts to a command dedicated to the appliance a description of control of the appliance written in the first format converted from the second format and which sends the command to the appliance.

5. A network server connected to a backbone system network, controlling an independent system network based on a dedicated protocol, comprising:

a communication unit which communicates with outside via the backbone system network;

a format converter which converts between a first information format and a second information format, the first format being used for managing appliances included in an independent system network which the server is controlling and the second format being used for exchanging information with outside; and

wherein the first format is defined for a specific appliance existent within said independent system network and the second format is defined for an unspecified appliance existent within said independent system network.

6. The network server of claim 5 further comprising:

an appliance selector which selects an appliance to control; and

an information exchange file generator which generates in the second format description of control of the selected appliance if the selected appliance is not existent within the independent system network the server controls and which sends the generated description.

7. A network system comprising:

a plurality of independent system network servers, each server controlling one of a plurality of independent system networks designed on different protocols; and

a backbone system network which interconnects the servers;

wherein the servers, on mutual agreement, use via the backbone system network a practically reserved information format other than a format to be used for controlling an appliance existent within an independent system

network which each server controls so that control of an appliance over different independent system networks can be conducted.

8. A network system controlling method, the system comprising a plurality of independent system networks which are designed on different protocols, a plurality of independent system network servers, each server controlling one of the independent system networks, and a backbone system network which interconnects the servers;

wherein the method makes each of the servers conduct:

communicating with other servers via the backbone system network; and converting between a first information format and a second information format, the first format being used for managing appliances included in an independent system network the server is controlling and the second format being used for exchanging information with other servers; the first format being defined for a specific appliance existent within said independent system network and the second format being defined for an unspecified appliance existent within said independent system network.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein the second format is defined in such a manner that the format becomes universal within said independent system network and wherein the conversion is made referring to a table indicating correspondence between the second formats, each format having universally within a respective independent network.

10. The method of claim 8 further comprising converting to a command dedicated to the appliance a description of control of the appliance written in the first format converted from the second format and sending the command to the appliance.

11. The method of claim 9 further comprising converting to a command dedicated to the appliance a description of control of the appliance written in the first format converted from the second format and sending the command to the appliance.

12. A network system controlling method, the system comprising a plurality of independent system network servers, each server controlling one of a plurality of independent system networks designed on different protocols and a backbone system network which interconnects the servers,

wherein the method makes the servers use via the backbone system network a practically reserved information format other than a format to be used for controlling an appliance existent within an independent system network each server controls so that control of an appliance over different independent system networks is achieved.

13. The system of claim 1 wherein said first format is built on a markup language.

14. The system of claim 1 where in said second format is built on a markup language.

15. The system of claim 1 wherein said second format adopts a universal tag structure.

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